

FPF Legislative Session Report

April 24-28, 2017



We reported last week that a new proposed Senate Bill, SPB 7030, would be heard Monday in Governmental Oversight & Accountability Committee. We were in attendance at the meeting and were prepared to testify, but the time allocated for the committee did not permit the testimony; however, our position on the bill was introduced into the record.

SPB 7030 provides for the treatment of a health condition or impairment of a full-time firefighter, which is caused by multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, prostate cancer, or testicular cancer. Should this result in total or partial disability or death, it will be presumed "in the line of duty".

The bill also expands the survivor benefit for investment plan members killed in the line of duty, and is retroactive to 2002. The bill also allows for renewed membership in the investment plan for former participants.

However, the bill changes the default enrollment into the FRS, which can dramatically reduce the retirement benefits for a majority of our members. For that reason, we cannot support the bill as written.

While the cancer presumption is important to our members, it will only affect the members that are afflicted with these cancers. We do not believe that trading a cancer provision that affects a small portion of our members for a benefit reduction that could affect a majority of our members is an acceptable exchange. The bill passed the committee last Monday by a 4 to 3 vote. The next stop for the bill is Monday, May 1st, where an amendment has been filed to remove the special risk class from the default change.

Two other bills are in the early Monday morning schedule, state group health insurance and workers' compensation. Both of these issues have an economic impact and affect the budget and our members' benefits.

The budget process was moving extremely slow last week, but ramped up quickly mid-point of this week with the House and Senate leaders agreeing on a \$83 billion budget that is between the \$81.2 billion House plan and the \$85.2 billion plan the Senate was offering.

The basic plan the House and Senate agreed to funds one of Senator Negron's key issues, \$64 million for a Lake Okeechobee reservoir plan, and provides \$200 million for Speaker Corcoran's "Schools of Hope." There is \$300 million in pay raises for state workers, which is a priority for Senator Latvala.

However, prior to finding this common ground, the House was prepared to pass a "standard operating budget" aimed at continuing the functions of state government largely at current levels. The Senate quickly dismissed the so-called continuation budget as "ineffectual" to which President Negron said our constituents deserve and expect more.

We have one week left in the regular session and ample bills to move. Jack Latvala is not in favor of moving to a Washington, DC style of budgeting and believes it's still a possibility to complete their work on time. Jack said, "If we get in gear today, tonight, tomorrow, we can still get it done." Two of Jack's priorities, cancer presumption and state employee pay raises, are still in play and part of the budget deal.

The State Constitution requires a 72-hour cooling-off period before lawmakers can vote up-or-down on the final budget, so the budget must be finished by Tuesday for the session to end on May 5th. We will have a full complement of boots on the ground next week anticipating an extremely busy week.

The local bills have passed the House, most with a single no vote. The bills have been sent to the Senate in messages and referred to the Rules Committee that will send them to the floor in a group for a single vote.

In addition to Vice President Rocco Salvatori and Secretary/Treasurer Gilbert Marsh, we had 5th DVP Watler that traveled to Tallahassee; their assistance is greatly appreciated.

RETIREMENT

HB 5705 Relating to State-administered Retirement Systems Appropriations Committee Companion Bill: HB 5701 (Appropriations Committee)

FPF Position: Watch

State-administered Retirement Systems: Revises required employer retirement contribution rates for members of certain membership classes & subclasses of FRS; provides finding of important state interest. Effective Date: July 1, 2017. 4/25/2017 HOUSE Filed (Formerly PCB APC8). 4/26/2017 HOUSE Referred to Calendar.

SB 7022 Relating to State-administered Retirement Systems (Governmental Oversight and Accountability)

Companion Bills: SB 2500 (Appropriations), HB 5001 (Appropriations Committee), HB 5007 (Government Accountability Committee)

FPF Position: Watch

4/27/2017 Bill placed in Conference (Appropriations Conference Committee); House Conference Committee appointed: Appropriations Conference Committee: Representatives Trujillo (Chair), Moraitis (At Large), Berman (At Large), Bileca (At Large), Boyd (At Large), Caldwell (At Large), Cruz (At Large), Cummings (At Large), Diaz,

J. (At Large), DuBose (At Large), McGhee (At Large), Metz (At Large), Moskowitz (At Large), Nunez (At Large), Oliva (At Large), Sprowls (At Large), Stafford (At Large), Stark (At Large); Senate Conference Committee appointed: Appropriations Conference Committee: Latvala (Chair), Flores (Vice Chair), Baxley (At Large), Benacquisto (At Large), Bradley (At Large), Braynon (At Large), Clemens (At Large), Galvano (At Large), Grimsley (At Large), Montford (At Large), Simpson (At Large); Appropriations Conference Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice/Justice: Bean (Chair), Baxley, Bracy, Clemens, Perry; Appropriations Conference Committee on General Government/Governmental Operations and Technology: Grimsley (Chair), Bean, Broxson, Campbell, Garcia, Mayfield, Rodriguez, Rouson, Torres; Appropriations Conference Committee on Health and Human Services/Health Care: Flores (Chair), Baxley, Book, Passidomo, Powell, Rader, Stargel; Appropriations Conference Committee on Higher Education/Higher Education: Galvano (Chair), Bradley, Clemens, Farmer, Lee, Simmons; Appropriations Conference Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education/Pre K - 12 Education: Simmons (Chair), Broxson, Farmer, Grimsley, Lee, Montford, Rouson, Young; Appropriations Conference Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources/Agriculture and Natural Resources: Bradley (Chair), Book, Braynon, Hutson, Latvala, Mayfield, Stewart; Appropriations Conference Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development/Transportation and Tourism: Brandes (Chair), Benacquisto, Gainer, Gibson, Passidomo, Powell, Rader, Simpson, Thurston.

[**SB 7030 Relating to Retirement \(Governmental Oversight and Accountability\)**](#)

FPF Position: Oppose

4/24/2017 SENATE Submitted as Committee Bill by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 4 Yeas, 3 Nays.

4/25/2017 SENATE Committee Bill Text Filed. 4/26/2017 SENATE Referred to Appropriations. 4/28/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Appropriations, 05/01/17, 8:00 am, 412 K.

EMS ISSUES

[**HB 61 Relating to Emergency Services for an Unintentional Drug Overdose \(L. Lee Jr.\)**](#)

[**Companion Bill: SB 558 \(Passidomo\)**](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/25/2017 HOUSE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/26/17. 4/26/2017 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 118 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/26/2017 SENATE In Messages.

[**HB 229 Relating to Programs for Impaired Health Care Practitioners \(Byrd\)**](#)

[**Companion Bill: SB 876 \(Young\)**](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/25/2017 SENATE In Messages. 4/25/2017 SENATE Received; Referred to Health Policy; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations.

[**HB 249 Relating to Drug Overdoses \(Rommel\)**](#)

[**Companion Bill: SB 588 \(Passidomo\)**](#)

FPF Position: Support

4/25/2017 HOUSE Read Second Time; Amendments Adopted (396583, 160797); Placed on Third Reading, 04/26/17. 4/25/2017 HOUSE Engrossed Text (E1) Filed. 4/26/2017 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 117 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/26/2017 SENATE In Messages. 4/26/2017 SENATE Received; Referred to Health Policy; Criminal Justice; Rules.

[**SB 588 Relating to Drug Overdoses \(Passidomo\)**](#)

[**Companion Bill: HB 249 \(Rommel\)**](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/25/2017 SENATE Favorable with CS by Rules; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays. 4/26/2017 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C3) Filed. 4/28/2017 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading. 4/28/2017 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 05/02/17.

[SB 876 Relating to Programs For Impaired Health Care Practitioners \(Young\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 229 \(Byrd\)](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/25/2017 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 18 Yeas, 0 Nays. 4/26/2017 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed. 4/28/2017 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading. 4/28/2017 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 05/02/17.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

[HB 139 Relating to Local Tax Referenda \(Ingoglia\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 278 \(Steube\)](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/25/2017 HOUSE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/26/17. 4/26/2017 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 93 Yeas / 23 Nays). 4/26/2017 SENATE In Messages. 4/26/2017 SENATE Received; Referred to Ethics and Elections; Community Affairs; Appropriations.

[SB 278 Relating to Local Tax Referenda \(Steube\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 139 \(Ingoglia\)](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/24/2017 SENATE Now in Appropriations.

[HB 455 Relating to Tax Exemptions for First Responders and Surviving Spouses \(Metz\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 764 \(Baxley\)](#)

FPF Position: Support

4/24/2017 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/27/17. 4/27/2017 HOUSE Read Second Time; Amendment Adopted (084959); Placed on Third Reading, 04/28/17. 4/27/2017 HOUSE Engrossed Text (E1) Filed. 4/28/2017 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 117 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/28/2017 SENATE In Messages.

[SB 764 Relating to Tax Exemptions for First Responders and Surviving Spouses \(Baxley\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 455 \(Metz\)](#)

FPF Position: Support

4/25/2017 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 18 Yeas, 0 Nays. 4/26/2017 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C3) Filed.

[SB 1108 Relating to Public Records/Firefighters and their Spouses and Children \(Artiles\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 383 \(Willhite\)](#)

FPF Position: Support

4/26/2017 SENATE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/27/17. 4/27/2017 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 37 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/27/2017 HOUSE In Messages.

LOCAL BILLS

[HB 533 Relating to City of Tampa, Hillsborough County \(Cruz\)](#)

FPF Position: Support

4/24/2017 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/27/17. 4/27/2017 HOUSE Read Second Time; Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 115 Yeas / 1 Nay). 4/27/2017 SENATE In Messages. 4/28/2017 SENATE Received; Referred to Rules.

STATE EMPLOYEES

[SB 1020 Relating to Collective Bargaining Impasses \(Powell\)](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/25/2017 SENATE Ordered enrolled. 4/25/2017 SENATE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed.

[**HB 7007 Relating to State Group Insurance Program \(Health & Human Services Committee\)**](#)
[**Companion Bill: SB 900 \(T. Lee\)**](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/24/2017 SENATE Favorable with 8 amendments by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 5 Yeas, 2 Nays. 4/26/2017 SENATE References to Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, Rules removed; Remaining reference: Appropriations. 4/26/2017 SENATE Now in Appropriations. 4/28/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Appropriations, 05/01/17, 8:00 am, 412 K.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

[**SB 1582 Relating to Workers' Compensation Insurance \(Bradley\)**](#)
[**Companion Bill: HB 7085 \(Insurance & Banking Subcommittee\)**](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/27/2017 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 05/01/17.

MISCELLANEOUS

[**SB 370 Relating to Florida Wing of the Civil Air Patrol \(Stargel\)**](#)
[**Companion Bill: HB 635 \(Combee\)**](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/24/2017 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/26/17. 4/26/2017 SENATE Read Second Time; Amendment Adopted (426696); Ordered Engrossed; Placed on Third Reading, 04/27/17. 4/26/2017 SENATE Engrossed Text (E1) Filed. 4/27/2017 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 33 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/27/2017 HOUSE In Messages.

[**HB 465 Relating to Firefighter Emeritus \(Raburn\)**](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/25/2017 HOUSE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/26/17. 4/26/2017 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 118 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/26/2017 SENATE In Messages. 4/26/2017 SENATE Received; Referred to Banking and Insurance; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules. 4/28/2017 SENATE Withdrawn from Banking and Insurance; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading; Substituted for SB 1084; Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 05/01/17.

[**HB 653 Relating to Community Associations \(Moraitis\)**](#)

[**Companion Bill: SB 744 \(Passidomo\)**](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/24/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Commerce Committee; 23 Yeas, 3 Nays. 4/25/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C3) Filed. 4/25/2017 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading. 4/25/2017 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/28/17. 4/28/2017 HOUSE Read Second Time; Amendment Adopted (759395); Placed on Third Reading, 05/02/17. 4/28/2017 HOUSE Engrossed Text (E1) Filed.

[**SB 744 Relating to Community Associations \(Passidomo\)**](#)

[**Companion Bill: HB 653 \(Moraitis\)**](#)

FPF Position: Watch

4/27/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Rules, 04/28/17, 10:30 am, 110 S. 4/28/2017 SENATE Favorable by Rules; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays. 4/28/2017 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading. 4/28/2017 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 05/02/17.