

Florida House & Senate Press Conference on School Safety Proposals and Fire-Arms
12:10 pm - February 23

Senate President Joe Negron, Sen Bill Galvano (Senate President Designate), House Speaker Richard Corcoran, Rep Jose Oliva (House Speaker Designate) met with news media to discuss legislation regarding fire-arms and school safety that both Senate and House working to address in the next few weeks.

FIRE ARMS SAFETY: Via legislation the legislature will seek new restrictions on purchase and ownership of all types of fire arms by:

- increasing the age for purchasing to 21 except for law enforcement/military personnel;
- establish 3-day waiting period for purchase of all firearms except for concealed weapons' permit holders or persons who complete the 16 hour "Hunter Safety Course" approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, thereby allowing additional time for criminal history checks.
- Complete ban on bump stocks.

FIRST MAJOR FOCUS (MENTAL HEALTH): It's the goal of both Chambers via legislation to enhance restrictions for persons subject to involuntary examination and commitment (Baker Act).

They hope to "provide law enforcement and the courts with the tools to enhance Public Safety by temporarily restricting firearm possession for those people who come into those types of processes."

Prohibit persons adjudicated mentally defective or committed to a mental institution from owning or purchasing a firearm or obtaining a concealed weapon license (Current law prohibits purchase but NOT possession).

SCHOOL SAFETY: Improve school security capabilities with additional school resource and security officers.

Harden our schools to incorporate into the school system programs to enhance safety and security via use of "specifically, trained and screened school personnel to function as a part of school security teams under the auspices of law enforcement.

Establish safe school and security standards and review school safety and security plans; implementation of a risk assessment procedure; require training for school

safety specialists as well as students and faculty which would also incorporate the requirement for drills for active shooter and hostage situations involving students, school personnel and law enforcement experts.

IMPROVE RESPONSE TO STUDENTS PRESENTING A DANGER TO THEMSELVES OR OTHERS: That would be accomplished by codifying and enhancing the activities of the multi-agencies network for students with emotion and behavioral disabilities requiring each school district to designate a school safety specialist and each school to establish a threat assessment team to provide a coordinated approach to evaluating and responding to students who pose a threat. In addition, removing barriers that prevent school districts and law enforcement to appropriately communicate and confer regarding students who are a threat and that prevent the appropriate actions to take place to have mental health services available and to have the appropriate coordination with law enforcement.

COORDINATE INFORMATION SHARING AND OTHER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS: Creating affirmative obligations for personnel in schools, law enforcement and service agencies to communicate and work together.

The Legislature wants to establish of a statewide Commission to investigate system failures in the Parkland School shooting and prior mass shooting events and have them make recommendations for system improvements. It will analyze evidence from the Parkland shooting and other mass shooting events in Florida to determine to what extent the failures of communication, failures of coordination and other failures contributed to the inability to prevent the deaths and injuries. Also to identify available tools such as a fusion center or a clearing house or judicial inquiry system and recommend ways that resources can be used more efficiently and effectively to identify risks and threats.

They will recommend changes to procedures and policies to enhance communications among schools, law enforcement and social service agencies.

MENTAL HEALTH: Both chambers are aggressively seeking to increase funding for mental health training, screening, counseling and services in schools.

THEY WILL REVISIT PUBLIC RECORDS LAW to create some exemptions for videos, photos and addresses of victims.