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Florida House of Representatives

THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

Volume 5, Issue 8

April 19, 2013

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As we enter the final weeks of session, The House of Representatives has gone into overdrive. This is the time of session during which most legislation is actually debated and voted on, therefore much of this past week was spent on the House floor. One of my bills, which enables Floridians to file unclaimed property claims online, passed this week. Take a moment and click [here](#) to see if you have unclaimed property. Other important bills that were passed this week are highlighted below.

This week I was appointed to the Justice Budget Conference Committee. Over the next few days we'll be meeting to reconcile differences in the House and Senate versions of the Justice Budget.

I also had the pleasure of welcoming Evan MacKay from the District, and am glad he had the opportunity to take part in the fun and educational House Messenger program.

As always it is an honor to serve you in Tallahassee.



It was my pleasure to welcome students from Hialeah Gardens Middle School to the Capitol in support of The Cancer Treatment Fairness Act which passed its final committee and is headed to the House Floor

FLORIDA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

In March Florida's unemployment rate fell to 7.5%, which is its lowest level since 2008 and below the national average. Since 2010, when unemployment stood at 12%, conservative leadership has helped businesses to create 320,000 private sector jobs. Even though there is more work to do, it is clear we are headed in the right direction.



Email Representative

Important Dates

April 20th

SunUp ARC's 8th Annual Spring Swing Golf Tournament

7:00 am

Sandridge Golf Club

Vero Beach

April 21st

Vero Beach Chamber Orchestra Concert

VBHS Performing Arts Center

7:00pm

Click links for event information

Technology Corner:

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Representatives at

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

LEGISLATION PASSED THIS WEEK

SB 92/HB 119- Searches and Seizures: "Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act"

It is essential that our Constitutional protections adapt to technological advances of the 21st century. To help protect the privacy of Floridians, SB 92 prohibits law enforcement agencies from using drones unless they have first obtained a warrant. The law allows exceptions in cases where there is a "high risk of terrorist attack," or "imminent danger", such as in a kidnapping case where the victim is thought to be in immediate danger. It also makes evidence gathered in violation of the Act inadmissible in any state court. Sailing through the legislative process, the bill is now ready to be signed by Governor Scott who said the following, "This law will ensure the rights of Florida families are protected from the unwarranted use of drones and other unmanned aircraft. I look forward to signing it when it reaches my desk."

HM545- Right to Keep and Bear Arms

On Wednesday, I proudly voted yes on House Memorial 545, which declares to the President of the United States and Congress the intent of the Florida House to use all of its authority to protect Floridians against any federal gun control measure that would infringe upon their second amendment right to bear arms, or on their ability to exercise this right without being subjected to government surveillance.

We must strive to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals. However, instead of imposing new restrictions on law-abiding gun owners, we should better enforce our current laws.

HB 701- Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Food Stamps)

Aimed at ensuring the proper use of taxpayer dollars meant to help families, this bill makes EBT cards unusable at liquor stores, gambling establishments, and strip clubs. This bill passed the House 89-26 and now goes to the Senate.

SB718- Family Law & Alimony Reform

Florida's alimony laws are outdated and often force inequitable divorce outcomes that hurt families. This bill revises the factors courts must consider and the formulas they use to award alimony payments. By setting limits on the percentage of monthly income that can be awarded in alimony based on the length of the marriage, it helps ensure that one party is not burdened with unfair alimony payments because of a short-term marriage. It also sets forth certain legal standards based on the length of marriages. For marriages of 11 years or less, there would be a "rebuttable presumption" against alimony, meaning that a party seeking alimony must show justification. In contrast, a marriage of at least 20 years would have the presumption that alimony should be awarded. Both the House and Senate have overwhelmingly approved this bill and it is now headed to the Governor.